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Security Council

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Letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to transmit the attached press release issued by the Office of the President today, regarding recent incidents of violence against international peacekeepers in Sierra Leone (see annex).

I would be grateful if the press release could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim M. **Kamara**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 2 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release, 2 May 2000

The recent incidents of indiscriminate violence perpetrated by some misguided ex-combatants against international peacekeepers in this country are causing grave concern to the Government.

The Government would like to make it clear that the Security Council gave the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) a mandate to protect the people of Sierra Leone if and when they are under "**threat of physical violence**". It must also be understood that, while UNAMSIL has been exercising considerable restraint, it does have the mandate, the means and the capability to discharge its responsibilities.

The Government cannot accept any pretext to justify such violence. It is universally recognized that the Government has done all in its power to implement the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement. Even within our limited budgetary resources we have made provisions to satisfy all concerned. What is urgently required is speedy progress in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme to enhance the Government's capacity to do more.

The Government would like to warn those responsible for the recent incidents that unless they put an end to such criminal acts of violence, they will be held accountable for their actions to the full extent of the law. Sierra Leone is governed by the rule of law. As from now on, any violation of the provisions of the Lomé Peace Agreement will be dealt with immediately and appropriately.